

Shane by Jack Schaeffer
Study Questions pp1-88 (Chapters 1-7)

The book begins in the state of Wyoming, USA, in the year 1889. The USA government has just begun giving the wild land away free to homesteaders if they can build a house and live successfully on the land (a claim) for five years. Prior to that cattlemen ranged herds of cattle free over the whole wild range which was originally the place Indigenous peoples lived and live.

Chapter 1

1. Describe the stray horseman that rides up at the beginning of the chapter.
2. Describe the Starrett's house.
3. What did the Starrett's do for Shane?

Chapter 2

4. What did Mother ask Shane to describe for her?
5. Jake Ledyard is what kind of a man and what has he brought for the Starretts?
6. How does Shane help the Starretts with Ledyard?
7. What did Joe Starrett and Shane do after Ledyard left?

Chapter 3

8. What is Mother especially good at? What does she do for the two men at work?
9. Why would the stump not come out of the ground once the side roots were cut?
10. What happened to Mother's first deep dish apple pie?
11. Why did they all laugh after the second apple pie was tasted?

Chapter 4

12. How did the Starrett adults change with Shane around?
13. What do you think Shane means when he tells Father that he is not running away from anything "Not in the way that you mean."?
14. What does Father ask Shane to do for him?
15. What strange behaviors does Shane exhibit as he lives and works for the Starretts?
16. Describe the gun culture of Wyoming at the time of this story. Why does Shane stand out?
17. What did Father really mean when he told Bob that Shane was "fiddle-footed"?

Chapter 5

18. What happened to the six steer father brought back from the ranch?
19. Who is Fletcher? What kind of man was he?

20. Why is feeding and bringing steers to top weight important to ranchers and stockmen alike?
21. What does Shane teach Bob about guns?

Chapter 6

22. Why was Fletcher a threat to the homesteaders?
23. How did the town come in to being?
24. Why do the homesteaders meet at the Starrett's?
25. Why do Bob, Shane and Father go to town?
26. Who is Chris and what does he do to Shane?

Chapter 7

27. What do the cowboys begin to do after Chris and Shane's exchange at Grafton's store?
28. What do the homesteaders believe Shane is responsible for and why?
29. What happens to Chris the second time he runs across Shane in Grafton's store?
30. Why does Marian (Mother) think that her husband has made a bad mistake?